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Jay C. Keithley
Vice President
Law and External Affairs
United Telephone Companies

EX PARTE

May 3, 1993

Ms. Donna Searcy, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 3 1993
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Common Carrier Bureau's April 28, 1993 Order

Dear Ms. Searcy:

Attached for filing is a letter delivered to Chairman Quello today in the matter referenced above. An identical letter was delivered to Commissioners Barrett and Duggan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay C. Keithley".

Jay C. Keithley
Vice President
Law and External Affairs

Attachment

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Quello,

The United Telephone companies will file today an emergency petition for review of the Common Carrier Bureau's April 28, 1993, Order, which required, among other things, United to reduce its 800 data base query rates. As I hope you are aware, United also has asked the Commission to stay the Bureau order until a petition for review can be resolved. United once more requests that the stay be granted and United be permitted to implement its 800 data base access query rates as originally proposed.

Complying with the Bureau's order, United filed revised tariffs on Thursday, April 29, 1993, that decreased its rates by one-third or more for users of United's 800 data base access query service. To offset the revenue shortfall caused by the rate decrease and to remain financially whole, United also increased local switching and transport rates for all United interstate access customers. In short United had little choice but to make a pricing decision based on factors other than the underlying economic costs of providing the services affected.

These price changes could have been avoided if the Bureau had allowed United's 800 data base query rates to have become effective as proposed. Instead, the Bureau forced United to conform its rates to an industry average -- a decision having nothing to do with cost causation and resulting in United having to increase rates for the users of one service in order to decrease rates for the users of a different service.

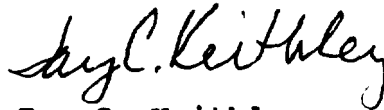
Chairman Quello
May 3, 1993
Page 2

By allowing United's 800 data base query rates to become effective as proposed, the Bureau could also have ensured no harm to any party. The Bureau's order placed the 800 data base query rates under investigation and required accounting records to be kept. If United's query rates had ultimately been found to be too high, the rates could then have been reduced and overcharges refunded with interest to customers.

United requests that a stay of the Bureau order be granted until the petition for review has been acted on. Grant of the stay will restore balance to United's rates and will ensure that customers pay only the costs of the services they actually use. The Bureau's investigation of the 800 data base query rates will then determine the reasonableness of the costs underlying the rates.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Jay C. Keithley
Vice President
Law and External Affairs

cc: Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Chairman Quello's Office
Kathleen B. Levitz
Common Carrier Bureau
Gregory Vogt
Tariff Division
Colleen Boothby
Tariff Division
Secretary's Office